

**Park and Recreation Advisory Board
Monthly Meeting Minutes – April 21, 2010**

Present: Lola Skolnik, Jay Shah , Paul Sabol, Ken Blue, Kelly Ivy, Betty Sonneveldt, Rachel McMullin, Marc Siegal, Kelly Ivy and student representative Jacob Fletcher

Staff: Joe McNeal, Co-Acting Director
Julie McHale, Co-Acting Director

Excused: Chris Husker

Absent: Lester Whitmer

Council: Konrad Herling, Council Member

- Lola called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.
- Budget Overview and Group Interviews started with the groups appearing as follows:
 - ✓ **Greenbelt Boys and Girls Club, Inc.** The group was represented by Vice-President, Mae Moncayo and Honorary Board Member, Anitra Byers. The representatives reported that fees will increase from \$135 to \$140 for the next year. It was also reported that the group had lost both the Soccer and Football commissioners and that others had stepped in.
 - ❖ Betty Sonneveldt asked what the fee schedule is and it was stated that it was \$140 for the first child, \$85 for the second, \$65 for each child more than two. Coaches and volunteers pay \$35. When asked how many of the 207 listed coaches and volunteers paid \$35, the representatives did not know.
 - ❖ John Winfrey asked what the club intended to buy with the money they had budgeted for equipment. Again, with the exception of balls for the teams, the representatives were unable to answer the question.
 - ❖ The representatives were questioned about re-use of uniforms and the representatives replied that uniforms were only purchased when additional children joined.
 - ❖ Rachel asked if the group had tried to get sponsorship for banquets and fundraisers.
 - ❖ Lola mentioned that the combined monies in savings and checking was about \$35,000 which is a very large amount to have in reserve. The representatives said the funds were for scholarships. It was again mentioned by PRAB members that this amount is huge.
 - ❖ The group spent \$10,102.90 on awards. Konrad stated that this was \$6/child per banquet. The representatives stated they had a banquet after each sport and that in addition to each child getting a trophy each team gets 5 special trophies to award to players.
 - ❖ Ken Blue commented that the group is one of the groups requesting the most money per member from the City and one of the lowest per member in fundraising.

- ❖ Marc asked what the group would do if the City contribution was cut back. Marc asked if they thought they would lose members if they had fewer banquets. The reply was that they would cut back expenses and that they would probably not lose members if there were fewer banquets.
- ✓ **Greenbelt Senior Softball.** The group was represented by Assistant Manager Irv Salzberg and Eli Flam, player. Irv opened by stating that the City currently gives \$.80/player/game.
 - ❖ Lola asked why there were not more players from Greenbelt. The response was that they had advertised, but not gotten any response. Lola stated that the City contribution is \$200 per Greenbelt resident.
 - ❖ Lola asked if the group was aware of the fundraising requirement. Irv reported that they had not done any fundraising this year but they were planning a 50-50 raffle of a television for the next season.
 - ❖ Marc asked if the \$1000 City contribution disappeared would the team disappear. The response was that the Greenbelt Senior Softball would go away, but the players would play somewhere else and be called by another name.
 - ❖ Konrad asked what the closest city was and the response was Bowie.
 - ❖ Paul asked why the group pays umpires and why it is not more casual. The response was that it had been tried and was a disaster.
- ✓ **Teen Education Network-Early Twenties too!** The group was represented by Lawrence Hilliard and two student musicians from a group sponsored band.
 - ❖ This group is seeking recognition group status. A power point presentation was done outlining the group's projects and mission.
 - ❖ Lola asked what Larry Hilliard to clarify the concept. She stated that she understood that it was an experience-based leadership that takes advantage of the culture we already have.
 - ❖ Paul commented that the activities were holistic and interdisciplinary.
 - ❖ Kelly commented that PRAB should give the group what it needs.
- ✓ **Greenbelt Baseball.** The group was represented by Vice President, Jim Inzeo and Treasurer, Emily Sullivan.
 - ❖ Betty asked what "other" on both income and expenses represented as it was not specified. Betty also asked about the number of volunteers and the actual number of volunteer hours reported.
 - ❖ Kelly asked if the number of kids listed counted the fall as well as the spring program.
 - ❖ Lola noted that there was \$3000 in fundraising, but that was clarified by reviewing the math.
 - ❖ It was reported that there is a separate fee of \$30 for fall baseball.
 - ❖ John clarified that there are 110 to 115 kids on 8 teams in the spring and about 50 kids on 4 teams in the fall.

- ✓ **Greenbelt Farmers Market.** The group was represented by President, Lynne Chandler, Secretary Kimberly Rush Lynch, Treasurer Joe Gareri, and Board Member, Jonathan Gordy.
 - ❖ Rachel asked why the group has no members. The response was that it was not a membership organization, just solicited volunteers.
 - ❖ Rachel asked how the group counts participants. The response was that 4 times a day each market day someone walks through with a clicker. This is a sampling system that has been created for use in this situation. Rachel commented that the projected participants for the entire year looks very high.
 - ❖ Rachel asked about by-laws.
 - ❖ Betty stated that while she really appreciates the market and uses it every Sunday, even though the supporting group is not for profit, the vendors are indeed for profit and should not be supported by City funds.
 - ❖ John asked what the group pays for. The response was that advertizing is their biggest expense. The group reported that the Market Manager was paid for by the city in Bowie and Riverdale Park.
 - ❖ John commented that the group was essentially running a business and that vendors' fees should cover expenses. He also stated that the group needed \$3000 to balance the budget.
 - ❖ Lola commented that the City already provides many services for the group and that we all appreciate their efforts. Council should be aware of the group's appreciation for in-kind services.
 - ❖ Lola asked what the group had in the bank now and what they would have in the bank if they balanced the budget. It was reported that there is a cushion of \$4000, essentially from start-up grants. It was stated that because of qualification changes the group is not getting several grants they have gotten in the past.
 - ❖ Betty advised the group mention the value of donated space when the group goes to Council.
- ✓ **Greenbelt Sity Stars (Greenbelt Youth Double Dutch League).** The group was represented by President and Head Coach, Kimberly Bradshaw.
 - ❖ Lola asked why the group is not incorporated for 501c3 status. Kim responded that she may form a Board of Directors as you can start whenever she can do it. Lola told Kim that she will have to develop by-laws.
 - ❖ Paul stated that it is necessary to have a Board of Directors in order to incorporate.
 - ❖ Betty asked about awards. Kimberly stated that awards are done all the time including Sity Stars money to buy things with. Awards are often small and used as positive motivation.
 - ❖ John asked what an award consists of. Kim replied that there are trophies, trinkets, certificates and ribbons.

- ❖ John asked how much revenue was lost because of cancelled winter performances. The reply was \$1200.
 - ❖ Lola motioned to accept budget as presented.
 - The next part of the meeting was the discussion and voting on all of the groups. I am copying the portion of the Report to Council that relates to this portion of the PRAB meeting.
- A. PRAB voted 9-0 to accept as presented the following Groups:
1. **Greenbelt Aquatic Boosters**
 2. **Greenbelt Babe Ruth**
 3. **Greenbelt Golden Age Club**
- B. PRAB met with the following Groups:
1. **Greenbelt Boys and Girls Club, Inc:** Presented by Vice President, Mae Moncayo and Honorary Board Member, Anitra Byers.
PRAB Concerns:
 - a. Group is spending a very high amount on banquets and awards.
 - b. Group listed taxes as an expense when they are tax exempt. Representatives to PRAB were unable to explain this expense.
 - c. Projected equipment costs are very high with no specifics on what would be purchased.
 - d. Bank cash balance appears to be very high.
 - e. There was not enough representation from the organization at PRAB meeting to clarify the issues.
 - f. Betty Sonneveldt wanted it noted that there is an error on the application and that the President of the Board does not live in Greenbelt as clarified by group representatives. This does not affect PRAB recommendations, it is just an error.

Recommendations: - PRAB's recommendation to Council is to reduce the amount of the City contribution but not enough information was presented to recommend a specific amount. The vote was 8-0.
 2. **Greenbelt Senior Softball:** Presented by Assistant Manager, Irv Salzberg, and Eli Flam, player.
PRAB Concerns:
 - a. Only 5 out of 30 players are Greenbelt residents.
 - b. This is a cost of \$200 per resident for a senior to play softball.

Recommendations: - PRAB recommends Council eliminate the City contribution. It was stated to PRAB by the representatives that there would be other places to play such as Bowie. The vote was 8-0.
 3. **Greenbelt Farmers Market:** Presented by President, Lynne Chandler, Kimberly Rush Lynch, Secretary, Joe Gareri, Treasurer, and Jonathan Gordy, Board Member
PRAB Concerns:

- a. The majority of the group feels that this organization is not an activity group
- b. While the Board is made up of volunteers, the vendors are all for profit.

Recommendations: - PRAB recommends no City funding and that the group should structure itself like the Labor Day Festival and the New Deal and therefore be self supporting. The vote was 7-1.

4. Greenbelt Baseball: Presented by Vice President, Jim Inzeo and Treasurer, Emily Sullivan.

Recommendations: - PRAB approves the budget. The vote was 8-0.

5. Greenbelt City Stars (youth Double Dutch): Presented by President and Head Coach Kimberly Bradshaw.

Recommendations: - PRAB approves the budget. The vote was 8-0

- C.** PRAB met with the **Teen Education Network-Early Twenties too! (TEN-ET)**, a new Group seeking Recognition Group status.

Recommendations:- PRAB recommends Council approve the groups application.

- D.** The Board also reviewed applications from the following Recognition Groups not requesting budget funds. Requests were approved as presented for:

1. Astronomical Society of Greenbelt
2. Chesapeake Education and Arts Research Society (CHEARS)
3. Citizens to Conserve and Restore Indian Creek
4. DC Roadrunners Club
5. Friends of Still Creek
6. Great Greenbelt Volkmarhers
7. Greenbelt Climate Action Network
8. Greenbelt Community Foundation
9. Greenbelt Community Gardens
10. Greenbelt Dog Park Association
11. Greenbelt Intergenerational Volunteer Exchange Service (GIVES)
12. Greenbelt Labor Day Festival Committee
13. Greenbelt Pride
14. Greenbelt Tennis Association

- March minutes were approved 9-0. Motion was made by Kelly Ivy and seconded by Rachel McMullin.
- The next meeting will be Wednesday, May 19th. Lola will be unable to attend.